



H1N1 Virus Partner Briefing

Influenza A (H1N1) Virus

June 10, 2009, 2:00 PM

Rhode Island: 59 confirmed positive cases, 10 hospitalized to date
National Report: CDC reports 52 states (including DC) with 13,217 confirmed and probable cases, 27 deaths
International Report: WHO reports 27,737 cases of influenza A (H1N1) infection worldwide, 141 deaths

Reminder: The partner briefing will be distributed on a weekly basis.

- H1N1 (swine) flu continues to spread both locally and nationally and is now widespread in Rhode Island due to the increase in sporadic cases and outbreak clusters throughout all five counties in Rhode Island. The majority of outbreak clusters have occurred in schools.
- Most Influenza-like illness (ILI) in Rhode Island has been mild; however there is a higher hospitalization rate with H1N1 infections compared to seasonal flu.
- **Guidance for Pregnant Women:**
 - HEALTH strongly recommends that pregnant women contact their obstetrician if they are exhibiting any ILI (fever with cough or sore throat).
- **Guidance for Employers:**
 - Remind employees with ILI that they should not come to work for 7 days after symptoms begin or 24 hours after symptoms have resolved, **whichever is longer**.
 - Remind employees to frequently wash their hands with soap and water, or use alcohol-based sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
 - Routinely clean all surfaces that are touched often. The H1N1 virus can be killed with common household or commercial detergents and disinfectants.
 - See Workplace Guidance on the HEALTH website:
<http://www.health.ri.gov/pandemicflu/swineflu/Advisory/WorkplaceGuidance060809.pdf>.
- **Guidance for Public Settings (including Graduation Ceremonies):**
 - If you are ill, stay home.
 - If you are not ill, limit personal contact such as hugging and handshaking while in public.
 - Cough and sneeze into your elbow.
 - Event organizers should make hand-washing stations available.
 - See Mass Gatherings Guidance on the HEALTH website:
<http://www.health.ri.gov/pandemicflu/swineflu/Advisory/MassGatherings051109%20.pdf>
- **Guidance for Summer Camps:**
 - All staff and campers should be screened upon arrival at camp.
 - Camp organizers should remind staff and campers to use good hygiene practices consistently.
 - Counselors and staff should be given a brief training on monitoring campers and recognizing flu-like symptoms.
 - See Summer Camp Guidance on the HEALTH website:
<http://www.health.ri.gov/pandemicflu/swineflu/Advisory/SummerCampGuidance060109.pdf>
- HEALTH continues to request that clusters or outbreaks of influenza-like-illness in congregate settings (i.e. camps, daycares, etc.), group residences, nursing homes and assisted living facilities be reported to the HEALTH Center for Epidemiology and Infectious Diseases at 401.222.2577 (8:30am-4:30pm) or 401.272.5952 (4:30pm-8:30am).
- HEALTH continues to post advisories and clinical guidance on the H1N1 website. New postings include date posted.

For further information go to:

- HEALTH at <http://www.health.ri.gov>; H1N1 Information Line (M-F 8:30am- 4:30pm) 401-222-8022
- CDC at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>
- WHO at <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html>